

In the Claims:

1. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A method for constructing coding sequences for expression of a Bt insecticidal protein in a plant cell comprising modifying the native coding sequence by substituting, for each codon encoding an amino acid in said protein, codons selected from Figure 1 that are used at the highest frequency in plants.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the codons selected from Figure 1 that are used at the highest frequency in plants are preferentially codons which have a C or G in the third position of the codon.

25. (New) A method for increasing the level of efficiency in expression of a Bt insecticidal protein comprising substituting, for each codon encoding an amino acid in said protein, codons selected from Figure 1 that are used at the highest frequency in plants.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the codons selected from Figure 1 that are used at the highest frequency in plants are preferentially codons which have a C or G in the third position of the codon.

27. (New) A method of making a coding sequence for expression in plants cells comprising:
starting with a native coding sequence of a gene;
modifying the native coding sequence by substituting, for codons in the native coding sequence, codons for identical amino acids that have the highest frequency of use in plant genes, according to the plant codon usage table in Fig. 1; and
making a modified coding sequence that contains the substituted codons and is more highly expressed in plant cells compared to the native coding sequence.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the modifying comprises substituting the highest frequency codon for at least the first twenty-five amino acids of the native coding sequence.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the modifying comprises substituting for at least 59 amino acids in the 5' end of the coding sequence.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising attaching at least one regulatory sequence to the modified coding sequence.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the native coding sequence is a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*B.t.*) coding sequence.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the native coding sequence codes for a *B.t.* delta endotoxin protein.